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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 612  
By Stulce

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Gregory Allen Vandergriff of Hamilton County on receiving the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart for his brave service in the Vietnam War.

WHEREAS, our country was conceived by individuals willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure this nation's freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to have had so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, Gregory Allen Vandergriff served with exceptional courage and gallantry and most certainly deserves proper recognition by this body for his remarkable heroism in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 1969, in the Quang Tri Province of South Vietnam, the BRAVO Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the United States Marine Corps were heavily attacked by the North Vietnamese Army, killing 13 soldiers and wounding 29; and

WHEREAS, during this horrendous event, Gregory Vandergriff risked his life to help his fellow soldiers escape the endless enemy fire by using his body to shield his fellow wounded soldiers from harm; and

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WHEREAS, he refused medical help despite his serious wounds so that the medical personnel could aid the more gravely wounded soldiers; and

WHEREAS, almost thirty years later, Gregory Vandergriff still bears the scars from that unforgettable day; however, the proper recognition he assuredly deserves is finally being bestowed upon him; and

WHEREAS, Gregory Vandergriff will be awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" and the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, the heroic achievements of this brave gentleman are a great source of pride to his community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that this General Assembly should pause to honor the bravery and devotion of this gentleman and recognize the dedication that this brave man has demonstrated; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Gregory Allen Vandergriff, a resident of Chattanooga, for his meritorious service to the United States armed forces and offer our sincere thanks for a brave job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.